

Other Benefits



King County

Benefits, Payroll and
Retirement Operations

Transportation

► Employee ID/ORCA card

If you're eligible for benefits, you receive a photo ID/ORCA card that pays your fare on the following regular transportation services:

- Metro Transit, Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit Express bus service
- Link light rail, Sounder commuter rail and Seattle Streetcar
- King County Water Taxi and Kitsap Transit Foot Ferry.

The photo ID/ORCA card can also be programmed with keycard functions for access to county facilities.

To get your photo ID/ORCA card, ask your supervisor to submit an ID/ORCA Request Form to your ID/ORCA coordinator. You can find the form and a list of coordinators in Public Folders/Construction & Facility Management/ID-Keycard & Forms-Bus Pass Information in the King County email system.

Your ID/ORCA coordinator will issue you a Bus Pass Authorization Form. Take the form and a photo ID to King County Building Services, ID/Access Control in Room 312 on the third floor of the King County Administration Building, 500 Fourth Ave., Seattle. Office hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday.

For more information, call 206-296-0104 (711 TTY relay).

► Employee Transportation Program

The Employee Transportation Program (ETP) provides the following transportation benefits to you as an employee:

- Unlimited bus rides on Metro Transit, Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit Express bus service
- Unlimited rides on Sound Transit Light Rail, Sounder commuter rail and Seattle Streetcar
- Unlimited rides on King County Water Taxi and Kitsap Transit Foot Ferry
- Home Free Guarantee—taxi cab rides home for emergencies up to eight times a year, if you come to work by bus, rail, streetcar, carpool, vanpool, biking or walking
- \$45/month fare subsidy on vanpools operated by Metro Transit, Community Transit, Kitsap Transit and Pierce Transit
- \$20/month incentives (REI or Union 76 gas gift cards) for carpooling, biking or walking to work if you work outside downtown Seattle
- Passes for passenger fare on auto ferries, purchased through pretax payroll deduction.

For commute assistance or more information:

- Call the ETP telephone hotline at 206-263-4575 (771 TTY relay)
- Email ETP at ETP@kingcounty.gov
- Go to the ETP website at www.kingcounty.gov/ETP.

Call 206-684-1556 for alternate formats.

Money Matters

► Deferred Compensation

The King County Deferred Compensation Plan (a 457 plan) is a voluntary supplemental retirement savings program that offers a convenient way to build your savings for the future while enjoying current tax breaks. The plan allows you to defer a portion of your county pay to a variety of investment options before taxes are deducted. This reduces your taxable pay, providing an immediate tax advantage.

You may withdraw your money (in a lump sum, installment payments or an annuity payment) at retirement or when you leave employment with King County. Withdrawn funds are taxed, but ideally after you've retired and your income and tax liability are less!

You can enroll any time as a benefit-eligible employee. Please note that it may take up to 60 days after enrollment to process the first payroll deduction. For more information:

- Contact T. Rowe Price, the plan administrator:
 - Call 1-888-457-5770 (711 TTY Relay Service)
 - Go to <http://rps.troweprice.com/kingcounty/>
- Attend a quarterly deferred compensation plan seminar (go to www.kingcounty.gov/benefits/employees/DeferredCompensation/Seminars).

► Credit Unions

Credit unions are nonprofit financial cooperatives that provide cost advantages, such as lower loan rates, over traditional banks. As a King County employee, you (and members of your family) are eligible for membership in the credit unions listed below. Employees may request their paychecks to be automatically deposited in a credit union account.

- Harborstone Credit Union
Call 1-800-523-3641 (711 TTY Relay Service)
Go to www.harborstone.com
- Qualstar Credit Union
Call 1-800-848-0018 (711 TTY Relay Service)
Go to www.qualstarcu.com.

Work and Family

► Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program offers free and confidential assistance to all county employees in resolving workplace concerns. Through consultation and one-on-one counseling, the EAP can help you with:

- Stress due to work issues
- Problems with coworkers or supervisors
- Anger management
- Work performance or job dissatisfaction
- Other work-related issues.

For more information, call 206-684-2103 or 206-263-4572 Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., or go to www.kingcounty.gov/employees/HumanResources/services/eap.

► **Making Life Easier Program**

The Making Life Easier Program offers free and confidential personal counseling services to benefit-eligible employees 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services are also available to your dependent family members (whether at home or away) and anyone living in your household. They include:

- Up to eight personal counseling sessions with a professional counselor
- Advice on issues ranging from family relationships to substance abuse
- Credit and legal consultation, including up to 30 minutes of free consultation with an attorney
- Child care resource and referral
- Adult and elder care.

For more information, call 1-888-874-7290 24 hours a day, seven days a week (711 TTY Relay Service) or go to www.kingcounty.gov/employees/HumanResources/services/eap.

► **King County Home Ownership Program**

Since 1999, the King County Home Ownership Program has served thousands of King County employees looking to take advantage of the savings and benefits this program has to offer.

The King County Home Ownership Program, which is administered by HomeStreet Bank, is designed to meet the individual needs of each county employee. If you are a first time home buyer, a seasoned buyer/seller or anyone in between, you can benefit from using this cost-saving program:

- Free home-buying classes
- Individual consultation
- Flexible loan qualifying standards
- Reduced loan fees (including no-fee loan approval and reduced closing costs)
- Expedited loan processing
- Extended hours of service.

For more information, call 1-888-425-6990 (711 TTY Relay Service) or visit the HomeStreet Bank website at www.homestreet.com/hometown.

Training and Career Development

► **Professional Training**

Talk to your supervisor about the training offered within your department and available from these other county resources.

► **Safety Training**

The Safety and Claims Management Division (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services) offers safety training including:

- First aid
- CPR
- Defensive driving

Call 206-205-5661 (711 TTY Relay Service).

► **Employment opportunities**

With more than 13,000 employees, King County offers a variety of employment opportunities. Most job positions are open to the general public, but some are exclusive and open only to current employees. Visit www.kingcounty.gov/jobs or email the Human Resources Division at hrcentral@kingcounty.gov.